

Olympic spotlight takes aim at Utah

By RYAN VAN BENTHUYSEN
The Daily Herald

PROVO — Nagano's fifteen minutes are up and the world has gone home.

And as the official Olympic tag was passed to Salt Lake Mayor Deedee Corradini last week, the spotlight clicked off in Japan and heated back up aimed at Utah.

How bright that light continues to shine after the 2002 Winter Olympics are over depends on what Utah residents make of the Games while they're here, said Mayor Lewis Billings, who returned from Nagano last week.

Billings visited Nagano to study how the Japanese organized the games. Specifically, he was studying how the ice hockey events were handled because Provo; in partnership with Utah County, will host hockey events in a new double-ice sheet arena under construction at Seven Peaks water resort.

"One of the things the Japanese did well was make it an experience," Billings said. "There was something happening all the time and that's the type of experience we would like to see provided for the people who come to an event here in Provo."

Cultural festivals in downtown Provo or at the entrance to the ice arena would give people a slice of Provo life to take home with them, he said. It would also attract attention to the downtown merchants who could benefit from the business, Billings said.

But the short-term dollar might be the only financial gain Olympic visitors bring, said Kevin Call, executive vice president of the Utah County Association of Realtors. Property value shouldn't fluctuate either way because of the Games, he said.

"I don't think it will have any impact at all on property values," Call said. "You've got a two-week event. As far as

property values go, that's nothing."

Although the Olympics will showcase Provo and possibly bring some people back to stay in the long run, the effect will not be substantial enough to gauge in comparison with the population growth the valley is already experiencing, he added.

Even if they don't stay for good, the world should have a good time while they're here, Billings said. A few ways to make sure that happens is to have good traffic and crowd control like the Japanese did for this year's Olympics, he added.

People coming to Provo for the events will most likely be told to park somewhere like Cougar Stadium at BYU and then they'll be shuttled to the ice arena, he said.

County Commissioner Gary Herbert said he thinks the women's ice hockey events will bring more people to Provo since the American team brought home the gold last week.

Billings agreed but said the gold medal round will bring the most attention and Provo will probably not get that event. More people show up for the gold medal competition and tickets cost more, he said. So holding the final round in a place that seats more people — like the Delta Center — will help pull in more revenue, he added. Billings did, however, request at least one medal round for Provo.

At this point, it looks like the ice arena will host some women's and men's ice hockey events and possibly a few speed skating competitions, Billings said. But that remains uncertain until the Salt Lake Organizing Committee gives the final approval on which athletes will be coming to Provo, he said.

It's a huge event but Utah shouldn't have a problem pulling it off, he said.



MISHA JAPARIDZE/The Associated Press
Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov is to lay flowers at Lenin's tomb in Moscow. The party is suffering an identity crisis.

Better red Communi

By MITCHELL LANDSBERG
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — As it nears its 100th birthday, the Russian Communist Party is torn by an identity crisis that threatens to splinter its already weakened ranks.

The party whose pronounced stances once carried the force of law seems uncertain about what role it wants to play in the new Russia: Loyal opposition or radical rabble-rouser? Partner of the government or enemy?

And with their ranks aging, the communists face tough decisions about how to appeal to a new generation that distrusts the Marxist past and is more interested in paychecks than politics.

Rejection

In recent weeks, the Communist Party's leadership in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, has made overtures to Boris Yeltsin about joining him in a coalition government — overtures that the president has rejected.

ent bans procedure after birth o

Although U.S. scientists had already successfully cloned calves using the same nuclear transfer technique, Holly and Belle were front-page news here amid growing debate over cloning.

Pharming said its calf-

cloning was different from that done elsewhere because the embryos were frozen before and after the cloning to allow more time for study.

But before Pharming could fully savor its success, the Dutch Agriculture Ministry

